

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph bridging pages 26-27:

In the rubber composition of the second invention thus constituted, a component accelerating the vulcanizing speed is further reduced while keeping a long-term heat aging resistance-improving component contained in the serum liquid (natural rubber serum) which has not been introduced into the natural rubber without coagulating the natural rubber latex after tapping, and thus obtained is the rubber composition blended with the rubber component containing the natural rubber mixture (component AC) having excellent characteristics.

Page 27, second full paragraph:

Further, in the rubber composition comprising the natural rubber mixture [component (C)] obtained by adding a viscosity stabilizer for a natural rubber to a natural rubber latex after tapping, obtained is the rubber composition comprising the natural rubber mixture (component AC) having a higher molecular weight, a smaller polymer gel content and an excellent viscosity stabilizing effect.

Page 30, first full paragraph:

Method for evaluating Mooney scorch time (MST):

A value of t_5 obtained by measuring at 125°C according to JIS K6300-1994 was shown ~~by an index, wherein the value of Comparative Example 1 was set to 100~~in minutes. It is shown that the smaller the numerical value is, the shorter the Mooney scorch time is and the worse the workability is.

Page 33, paragraph 1:

As apparent from the results shown in Table 1 described above, the rubber composition prepared in Comparative Example 1 was not blended with the coagulated matter. Also, it became clear that NR coagulated with an acid was not effective to aging as was the case with Comparative Example 2. Further, it was found that NR dried directly by means of a drum dryer improved the heat aging resistance but provided the short scorch time as was the case with Comparative Example 3. ~~It was found that in Comparative Example 4, coagulation with an acid improved the MST but was not effective to aging.~~